

To: Transportation Safety Board
From: Glen Roberts
Subject: CN Acquisition of EJ&E Track – Barrington, IL
Date: January 9, 2008

Dear Representative,

As a 14-year member of the Barrington community, I am deeply concerned about the subject acquisition by CN. The current situation, with a handful of freight trains passing through the neighborhoods is tolerable, but even now the late evening whistles and noise from rolling freight are an annoyance.

My primary concerns about this proposal center around safety and traffic congestion. The safety issues are numerous but the first priority must be the protection of our children. The rail line passes very close to our high school and children cross the intersection at Main Street, by foot or car, constantly before and after school. There is also a risk that escape from the high school grounds, in the event of an emergency, could be hampered by freight trains on the southeast and the Metra passenger line on the Northwest (already severely backed up due to traffic volume after school). The only remaining route from the school would be west on Main. Conversely, Emergency Response crews would have very limited access routes to the school, or other sites, when needed.

The next safety concern relates to the risk of hazardous material leakage due to derailment. Given the enormous increase in freight traffic, the chance for a disaster increases accordingly. The new volume of industrial products crossing from the EJ&E track and Metra just west of route 59 add to this risk. The aforementioned noise pollution would again be increased at least four-fold.

Road congestion into and out of town is already a serious problem that the DOT and Barrington Planning Commission have examined. There is currently no reasonable solution and the CN plan will degrade the situation further. Traffic that currently is slowed or stalled southbound on route 59 most mornings over ½ mile from Main Street (and the opposite evening flow) will be worsened. Our house in Chippendale positions us very poorly in relation to likely rail traffic that surrounds us on three sides and six crossings at Elia, Cuba, Lake Zurich and Hough plus two Metra crossings on Main. Travel to community events in Barrington will be lengthy, affecting our quality of life as we have long been dedicated to the cultural, social, educational and recreational activities offered.

Please consider these issues during your assessment. I am extremely concerned that our town will be negatively changed for years to come.

Sincerely,



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